

6. The device according to claim 1, wherein said diffusion means comprises a scattering agent contained in a resin that covers the light source.

7. The device according to claim 2, wherein the
5 plurality of light sources are integrally packaged.

8. The device according to claim 2, wherein the plurality of light sources comprise LEDs.

9. The device according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of LEDs have different emission wavelengths.

10 10. The device according to claim 9, wherein the plurality of LEDs respectively have red, green, and blue emission wavelengths.

11. An image sensor comprising an illumination device cited in claim 1, a lens for imaging optical
15 information at a read position, and a photoelectric conversion element for receiving an optical image formed by said lens, and converting the optical image into an electrical signal.

12. An image reading apparatus comprising an image
20 sensor cited in claim 11, and driving means for changing a relative position between said image sensor and an object to be read.

13. An information processing system comprising an image reading apparatus cited in claim 12, and an
25 external information processing apparatus for controlling said image reading apparatus.